

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment to the claims, the specification has been amended at page 1 so as to make it clear that the claimed invention does now relate to a multi-agent system. Since this is the central thrust of the specification, it is believed that this amendment is in order.

Attention is also called to an attached Canadian office action from a counterpart application as well as a copy of the prior art therein cited and a Form PTO 1449. The IDS fee for this stage of prosecution is also attached.

Further attention is drawn to a related co-pending commonly assigned application 09/905,977 and its now issued parent US Patent 6,407,996.

The rejection of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Kisiel '586 is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has earlier argued possible distinction from the prior art because of a request for visualization service being received from the process management system which was to generate the data to be visualized. However, in view of applicant's Figure 1 showing of display 135 with its independent connection to the Internet (and in view of

the applicant's teaching at page 25, line 26 to page 26, line 8), this argument is now abandoned and the claims have been amended so as to remove any such limitation.

As will be noted above, the applicant's claims have been reduced in number and have been narrowed in scope so as to be directed to a performance visualization system visualizing the performance of a multi-agent system.

By contrast, Kiesel is directed to support of research projects collecting data from heterogeneous data sources – and clearly does not teach a performance visualization system of any type – let alone one designed to visualize the performance of a multi-agent system. Accordingly, this ground of rejection is believed to have been mooted by the above amendment – thus making it unnecessary to discuss the specific points raised by the Examiner in any further detail.

The rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made “obvious” based on Kiesel in view of Sharples ‘450 is also respectfully traversed.

While Sharples is directed to a visualization system for communication network performance, it does not mention visualization of multi-agent systems. Furthermore, claim 17 has been cancelled by the above amendment thus also mooting this ground of rejection.

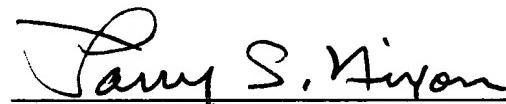
It is believed that several features of the above amended independent claims are not taught or suggested by either of the cited references – and that the pending dependent claims add yet further novel features to the applicant's claimed invention.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Larry S. Nixon
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:lmy
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100